

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 OES-03 OFA-01 CG-00

DOTE-00 DLOS-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 SS-15 NSC-05

FMC-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 EPA-01 NSF-01 FEA-01 /083 W

----- 036257

R 240910Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2219

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT PLOS IMCO MY ID SN

SUBJ: TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS ON NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY IN  
MALACCA STRAIT; TOSA MARU REACTION

REF: A) SINGAPORE 1660 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 87918 (NOTAL)

C) KL 1058

1. SUMMARY: ONLY PASSING ATTENTION GIVEN BY MALAYSIAN PRESS  
TO COLLISION APRIL 17 BETWEEN JAPANESE AND LIBERIAN TANKERS  
OFF SINGAPORE. IN FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION, MINISTER OF LAW  
KADIR TOLD PRESS APRIL 23 THAT COLLISION MAKES ALL MORE  
URGENT "FINALIZATION" OF NEW TRAFFIC SCHEME AND REGULATIONS  
FOR SAFETY IN MALACCA STRAIT, WHICH KADIR FEELS COULD BE DONE  
WITHOUT WAITING FOR OUTCOME OF LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE.  
DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE INDICATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO  
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CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THREE COUNTRIES SINCE

PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SHOWA MARU INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN AIRPORT STATEMENT TO THE NATIONAL NEWS SERVICE APRIL 23, MINISTER FOR LAW AND ATTORNEY GENERAL TAN SRI KADIR, DEPARTING FOR LOS CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT APRIL 17 COLLISION BETWEEN TANKERS TOSA MARU AND CACTUS QUEEN OFF SINGAPORE MAKES IT ALL THE MORE URGENT FOR MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA TO FINALIZE A NEW TRAFFIC SCHEME AND REGULATIONS FOR SAFETY IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. THESE, KADIR REPORTEDLY SAID, COULD BE APPROVED BEFORE ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. THE REGULATIONS, KADIR ADDED, SHOULD MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION DGR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM POLLUTION AND ENSURE THAT SHIPS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS DO NOT "JUST RUN AWAY" (AS THE CACTUS QUEEN SEEMS TO HAVE DONE).

3. WITH REGARD TO GENEVA CONFERENCE, KADIR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ITS LAST THREE WEEKS, BUT THAT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE A DRAFT TREATY AS ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN EXPECTED (SIC). (IN FACT, TAN SRI KADIR HAS BEEN EXTREMELY BEARISH ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN PAST STATEMENTS.)

4. APPARENTLY BECAUSE MALAYSIAN COASTLINE NOT AFFECTED AND EVENTS IN INDOCHINA DOMINATING HEADLINES, TOSA MARU COLLISION HAS RECEIVED RELATIVELY LITTLE PRESS ATTENTION HERE. HOWEVER, GOVT-OWNED "NEW STRAITS TIMES", IN APRIL 22 EDITORIAL, DID NOTE APPROVAL OF NEW MALACCA STRAIT CHART IN TOKYO AND ASKED: QUOTE: ARE WE REALLY AS POWERLESS AS WE SEEM TO BE? EVEN VOLUNTARY RECOGNITION OF SEPARATE EAST AND WEST ROUTES ...WOULD BE HELPFUL. THE SUPERTANKERS MUST BE BANNED. THEY CANNOT PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS WITHOUT ENTERING TERRITORIAL WATERS. (PRESUMABLY AS CONTRASTED WITH INDONESIAN WATERS SINCE CHANNEL IS DEEPEST ON MALAYSIAN SIDE). THE NARROWNESS OF LANES IN SOME STRETCHES MAKES FOR SPECIAL HAZARDS... INVESTIGATION (OF TOSA MARU INCIDENT) HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY CACTUS QUEEN'S UNAUTHORIZED DEPARTURE, ...(BUT) THE FACTXXXS OF THE COLLISION...ADD THEIR IMPERATIVE DEMAND FOR NAVIGATIONAL REGULATIONS WE SHOULD HAVE HAD YEARS AGO. END QUOTE.

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5. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION HERE ABOUT PROGRESS OF TRIPARTITE TALKS ON STRAITS REGULATIONS BECAUSE OF NORMAL MALAYSIAN SECRETIVENESS AND OF FACT ALMOST ENTIRE CADRE OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN LOS MATTERS CURRENTLY IN GENEVA. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS OR EVEN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS SINCE LAST FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH THESE HAVE BEEN MOOTED

SEVERAL TIMES, OUR IMPRESSION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY JAPANESE  
EMBASSY AND BY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE. JAPANESE  
STATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS OVER FEBRUARY SHOWA MARU INCIDENT  
CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS BETWEEN RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND  
INSURANCE COMPANIES AND GOJ "NOT INVOLVED". AS OF APRIL 22,  
THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM GOM ON TOSA MARU INCIDENT.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, STRAITS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** 75 SINGAPORE 1660  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** EWWT, PLOS, MY, ID, SN, IMCO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006